whole state is Rs. 354 crore to be utilised over a six year period. The objectives of the project are to increase forest productivity and quality, protect the environment and strengthen and improve the functioning of the forestry administration in the State. The implementation of the project will further promote afforestation and tree planting activities, including social forestry, in the state.

Depletion and Destruction of Reserve Forest Land in Andhra Pradesh

2784. DR. YELAMAN CHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale depletion and destruction of reserve forest in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) Following steps are taken to arrest this with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No large-scale destruction of reserve forest has been reported in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) following steps are taken to check destruction of forests in Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to check diversion of forests land for non-forestry purpose.

(ii) 16 Flying Squad Parties, 24 Mobile Parties and Protection Force Teams are engaged to keep vigil on smuggling of forest produce and encroachments on forest land;

(iii) Interior forest areas are connected with wireless network to improve communication. 116 fixed wireless stations and 86 mobile wireless sets have been provided in vulnerable forest areas to detect smuggling of forest produce;

(iv) Field staff is equipped with vehicles in vulnerable areas;

(v) The police help in sought as and when required to apprehend notorious smugglers;

(vi) Village communities are involved in forest protection through the mechanism of usufruct sharing; and

(vii) 100 per cent Central assistance is provided to the Andhra Pradesh Government under 'Modern Fire Control Methods' Scheme to control forest fires.

प्रदूषित महानगर

2785. श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अभिनन्दन जैन : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने यह पता लगाने के लिये कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया है कि देश के चार महानगरों में से कौन सा महानगर सबसे ज्यादा प्रदूषित है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त सर्वेक्षण का निष्कर्ष क्या है;

(ग) क्या नागपुर स्थित राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण इंजीनियरी एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान ने भी इस संदर्भ में कोई अध्ययन किया है ;

(घ) इन महानगरों में प्रदूषण की स्थिति से निपटने के लिये सरकार द्वारा अब तक क्या-क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं; और

(ङ) प्रदूषित वातावरण के कारण इन चार महानगरों के निवासियों में फैलती बीमारियों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?